

December 1, 2013

Dear Peace Corps Family,

On December 5, we take a moment to recognize International Volunteer Day. This day gives us an opportunity to celebrate the community volunteers working alongside Peace Corps Volunteers worldwide. All volunteers make valuable contributions every day to the communities in which they serve and gain personally and professionally through their experience.

On December 3, the Peace Corps and the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) will celebrate the importance of volunteering with a special event, [“Volunteering and Development: Mobilizing for Global Impact.”](#) The event will take place in commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Small Project Assistance (SPA) program, a partnership between USAID and the Peace Corps providing Volunteers and the communities in which they serve with small grants for grassroots development projects. Please RSVP to SPA30@peacecorps.gov if you are interested in attending. Featured guests include Bockari Stevens, Ambassador of Sierra Leone to the United States; U.S. Rep. David E. Price of North Carolina; and Dr. Steven R. Lerman, provost of The George Washington University.

Critical to the success of these projects are local community volunteers. At the event, USAID Administrator Rajiv Shah, Special Olympics Chairman Timothy Shriver, and VSO International Chief Executive Marg Mayne will join me in exploring the critical role of volunteers—both international and local—in the development process.

This celebration of the success of the SPA program aligns with the recent establishment of President Obama’s National Service Task Force. The task force, comprised of federal agencies including the Peace Corps, seeks to support and strengthen the U.S. government partnership with the private sector to expand national service opportunities for Americans. In creating the task force, the President recognized that national service can provide effective solutions to national and international challenges, as well as important opportunities for those who serve to gain valuable skills.

In the spirit of volunteering and service, I would like to take this opportunity to wish the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), a key partner of the Peace Corps, a happy 20th anniversary. CNCS coordinates the service of tens of thousands of Americans to serve their country through AmeriCorps and other service programs.

We look forward to helping Americans answer the call to national service at home and abroad for many years to come.

With warmest regards,

Carrie Hessler-Radelet
Acting Peace Corps Director
RPCV/Western Samoa, 1981–83